**Humanities – Penny Laursen MYP5**

Japan had been in disagreement with Vietnam and had entered their country for a long time, however in 1945 the Japanese finally retreated out of Vietnam. Remember that the French were ruling Vietnam at this point and had power in pretty much most of the country. The Vietminh people started to protest against France and wanted to re-own their land. The leader, at this point, in Vietnam after the Japanese had left, was Ho Cho Minh. The U.S. government was pretty much keeping an eye on everything, and when it reached their leaders that Vietnam was trying to make France leave their country, the U.S. sent in their forces in order to send France out for good. At the same time, in China, communism has been introduced and taken into account. When this news reached the U.S. government, they immediately saw it as something that could threaten the world peace because if China were communists, they could persuade the surrounding countries with ease because they were all smaller and weaker than China. This threat was proposed by President Eisenhower and called “a domino effect”.

The U.S. government saw it necessary to get France to re-enter Vietnam in order for the domino effect to be stopped. This ended up with the U.S. government paying 1/3 of the cost, $500 million, for their army and supplies. Even with these extra advantages of having some of their costs being paid for, the French army was still incapable of defeating the Vietnamese army, and in 1954, at Dien Bien Puh, the French were finally defeated completely ending with a casualty number that passed 50,000 soldiers. The U.S. decided that perhaps a solution could be found so a peace meeting was held in Geneva in the 1950’s after the defeat at Dien Bien Puh, to seek a solution. After discussions, a solution was found. It was agreed that Vietnam was to be split into two zones; the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Nothern Vietnam) and the State of Vietnam (Southern Vietnam). The zone was split at the 17th parallel, which mean 17 degrees north of the equator. The Vietnamese people were given a choice to whether if they wanted to move from the Southern part of Vietnam up to the Northern part, as the Southern part was to still belong to France.

However, not everyone was happy to split up Vietnam into two. Gorillas were sent out from the Northern part of Vietnam to try and get France completely out of Vietnam again, however this time the Gorillas were far more experienced and stronger than the normal army and the French were least expecting it. They proceeded with high speed and soon a new war had started. This was the Civil War in Vietnam between the Northern and the Southern part. It became a war since some people agreed to the solution that came up and were happy when the U.S. government started to help the State of Vietnam to set up a functional government. So when the people from the North tried to regain the land of the South, war broke out as a result. The U.S. army helped out again in many ways, both with money, supplies and soldiers in order to somewhat keep peace between the civilians and the soldiers that were out and about.

Another scare that were brought up when the gorillas were sent out, was Operation Rolling Thunder, put into action the U.S. government and army in order to stop the gorillas and the Northern Vietnamese army from forcing their way into the Southern Vietnam. The action included bombing most of the Northern Vietnam’s factories, buildings, army bases, their capital, this being Hanoi and finally the bombing of a trail called the Ho Chi Minh Trail that was supposed to carry supplies from Northern Vietnam to South Vietnam. The U.S. army alongside the Southern Vietnam army fought against the gorillas for a long time. An encounter that is remarkable, for the U.S. government, was at the La Drang Valley, where the gorillas or communists were defeated and suffered a great loss of soldiers.

The battling forces the U.S. government to build heavier and stronger army machines in order to keep the communists out of Vietnam. The U.S. starts to take over control of most cities, but leaves the control of the country side to the State of Vietnam’s government. They battled for a long time and soon the communists realized that it was an impossibility to force the American troops out of Vietnam. The communists soon realized that they needed something extreme to get the American’s out of Vietnam and came out with the Tet Offensive. This happened in 1968 and included a huge attack on over 100 of the most populated and popular cities in the South Vietnam, some of these cities containing the American Embassy and some cities were almost flattened such as the city of Hue.

After 3 ½ years of battling the Operation Rolling Stones finally ended and the civil war alike a little later on. It was time for all of this to end, and in secret a general from the U.S. army, Kissinger, and a general from the Vietnam army, Le Duc, met and discussed ways of getting peace and quiet back to Vietnam and its surroundings. They agreed for the Americans to pull out of Vietnam, and slowly they did. The South Vietnam slowly started to regain the land of the North Vietnam by the end of year 1972. In Paris in 1973, there is finally signed a peace treaty like paper that says that the rest of the U.S. troops must leave the Vietnam as well as the French. It also suggested that no more fire should be opened against any country or from any army.

In 1975 though, as the majority of the American troops were out of Vietnam, the communists started to protest again and went against the South who had taken over most of Vietnam making it a whole. Soon the communists took over as they fought for their rights and the South fell to the Communist. This ended the Vietnam War as the last U.S. officials was flown out of Vietnam by helicopter.